(2.)

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF ANGUS,

TRANSLATED

FROM THE ORIGINAL LATIN

OF

ROBERT EDWARD,

MINISTER OF MURROES.

By the Rev. James Bail

DUNDEE,

PRINTED BY T. COLVILL.——1793.

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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APR

TO

THE HONOURABLE

WILLIAM RAMSAY-MAULE,

OF PANMURE,

THE FOLLOWING TRANSLATION

OF EDWARD's DESCRIPTION

OF ANGUS,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS MOST OBEDIENT

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE TRANSLATOR.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following Deſcription of Angus was originally written in Latin, by Robert Edward miniſter of Murroes, and publiſhed in the year 1678, along with a pretty large Map of the County, executed by the ſame hand. It is printed on one ſide of a large ſheet of paper, and ſeems to have been chiefly intended to accompany the Map, by way of explanation. The only copy of this deſcription, (and from which the following tranſlation was made,) which the Tranſlator, after ſeveral inquiries for that purpoſe, has heard of, was found about ten or twelve years ago in the Houſe of Panmure, among ſome looſe papers. It is thought, ſo particular an account of the County, drawn up in the year 1678, will by many be deemed a curioſity too valuable to be ſo little known: it is therefore here preſented to the Public in an Engliſh dreſs, which, tho' leſs elegant, is better calculated for common uſe, than the original. The tranſlation is, in general, as literal as poſſible. A few Notes are added by the Tranſlator. For thoſe explanations of the proper Names, here inſerted for the ſatisfaction of thoſe who may be curious in matters of that kind, he is indebted to an acquaintance who underſtands the Galic language, whence moſt of our names are originally derived.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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APR

A NEW

DESCRIPTION

OF

ANGUS,

By ROBERT EDWARD,

CITIZEN OF DUNDEE, AND MINISTER OF MURROES,

1678.

IN ancient times, ANGUS and MERNS were united, and both called by the ſame name. Tacitus, who wrote about the year of Chriſt 110, calls them HORESTIA; which, ſome think, is derived from the Greek word *horos*, (a mountain,) becauſe a great part of that country is mountainous. Ptolomy, who flouriſhed about the year 142, relates that a part of the Taizali inhabited this Horeſtia. The Engliſh, however, gave it the name of FORESTIA, as if the country had been a wood or foreſt. Kenneth II. having, about the year 838, divided this country into two ſhires or provinces, beſtowed

beſtowed them on his brothers, Æneas and Mernas, as a reward for their good ſervices in war: and each called his province by his own name. The ſouth province was called Æneia; and the north Mernia: and becauſe Æneas is, in the Engliſh language, rendered Angus, this country hence obtained the name of ANGUS. The 37th king of Scotland was, by the ancient Scots, called Æneianus, but now moſt commonly, Anguſianus. As for the name Æneas, which is derived from the Greek word *ainos*, the learned know, it was very famous among the Trojans. But our Æneas gave his name to this country, to perpetuate the memory of himſelf; tho' the name was, no doubt, originally derived from *ainos*.

The boundaries of Angus are as follow. On the eaſt it is bounded by North-Eſk*, which divides it from Merns. From the mouth of that river, weſtwards to the mouth of Tay, it is bounded by the ſea. Then extending up the country, between the frith of Tay, Drumilaw† and Barry ſands, it terminates at the quarry of Kingudie: thence it ſtretches northwards in an indirect line, for the ſpace of twenty-

* Eſk, or Uiſg. Water.

† Drumilaw. Gray prominent places.

twenty-ſeven miles*, as far as the ſource of Yla. It borders with Perthſhire on the weſt, until you reach the very lofty mountains of Binchichins†; and this vaſt ridge, (being indeed the Grampians of Angus,) forms the boundary between Angus and Aberdeenſhire, for the ſpace of nineteen miles. From the far-extended ſummits of theſe mountains, may be ſeen the whole county of Angus ſloping towards the ſouth, and Aberdeen towards the north; likewiſe the riſe of the river Yla, and that of the two Eſks, which wind thro' Angus towards the ſouth. Turning towards the north, you ſee many rivulets which empty themſelves into the Dee, a river which waters the county of Aberdeen from one end to the other. Near the head of the river Tarf, you muſt leave the tops of the Grampians, and come down from the north-weſt, along the eaſt borders of Angus, as far as Achmuls‡, from which you have a proſpect of the caſtle of Edzdel, (the ſeat of the family of Lindſays, eminent barons,) ſituated in a kind of iſthmus. At laſt North Eſk ha-

* Where miles are mentioned in this work, Scotch miles are always meant. Two Scotch miles are equal to three Engliſh.

† Binchichins. The hills of the fairies. Perhaps the proper reading is, Bein-Chaochan, i. e. mountain of ſtreams.

‡ Achmuls. The bare-field.

ving paſſed the mountains and Edzdel, and watered the plains on the borders of Angus and Merns, empties itſelf into the ocean.

The length of Angus, between Mount-Petie and the ſhore at Montroſe, is twenty-eight miles; and between this ſhore and the Binchichins, near the ſource of Yla, is thirty-two miles: the circumference of the whole is ninety-ſeven miles.

Formerly, this county was almoſt equally divided between the Scots and Picts. The Picts poſſeſſed the ſea-coaſt, and not only Dundee, but alſo Forfar, at that time fortified with ſtrong caſtles. But the mountainous part of Angus, viz. the portion of the Grampian hills lying in that county, was always, even from the earlieſt period, inhabited by the Scots. The Caledonian wood, which covered the Grampians for a great way, was in the dominions of the Scots; as is evident from this circumſtance, that the kings of Scotland uſed to hunt there, at all times, as in their own territories, without paying any tribute to the Picts on that account; which appears from Boetius, B. iv. ch. 6. &c. And on the borders of this wood, at the foot of the Grampians, towards the Pictiſh confines, ſtands the ancient city of Dunkeld, which was built and conſtantly poſſeſſed by the Scots. At length Kenneth II.

king

king of Scotland, after many battles with the Picts, either utterly deſtroyed, or baniſhed them forever from the kingdom. The Scots then took poſſeſſion of all Angus, as they alſo did of the reſt of the Pictiſh dominions.

With regard to the ſituation of Angus on the globe: the elevation of the north pole at Dundee is 56° 40′. And as to the longitude, that town is under the ſame meridian with the convent of St. Croſs, (i. e. the Abbey of Holyroodhouſe,) on the eaſt ſide of Edinburgh.

The air of Angus is temperate, and abundantly wholeſome. It appears from the courſe of the rivers Yla, Melguns, Carrity, Proſſin, Noran and the two Eſks, which is from north to ſouth, that the hills, thro' the whole upper part of this country, from the top of the Grampians, which are the northern boundary of Angus, form a gradual deſcent towards the ſouth: hence the cold of the north wind is partly kept off, and partly tempered by the reflection of the ſun's rays; and accordingly many people here have lived an hundred years, and ſome have even exceeded that age. At the foot of this long and gentle ſlope of the mountains, lies a valley, (commonly called Strathmore*,) of pro-

 portional

* Strathmore. The large or broad valley.

portional extent: for it reaches from Dunbarton in the ſouth-weſt, to Fettereſſoe in the north-eaſt, a ſpace of about eighty miles, ſtretching along the Grampians, which are of the ſame length. That part of this great valley, which runs thro' the middle of Angus, is the moſt plain, pleaſant and fruitful part of the whole. If a perſon travel from Mount-Petie to Montroſe, by the way of Forfar, he will ſee on his left hand, ſometimes three, ſometimes four ridges of the Grampian hills riſing one above another: and if he chooſe to take the top of Turin-hill in his way, he will have a view of almoſt numberleſs caſtles and houſes of the great, lying between Cupar and Montroſe, and which are ornamented with fine woods and gardens. He may alſo ſee four of the royal burghs of Angus, viz. Forfar, Brechin†, Montroſe and Abrinca, (commonly called Arbroath, or Aberbrothock,) likewiſe the little towns of Glammis and Kirriemuir: and behind, in the valley of Lunan, there are many elegant ſeats of the gentry.

There are in Angus ſeveral other vallies of leſs note, viz. Glen-Yla, Glen-Proſſin, Glen-Eſk north and ſouth, and the valley of Dichty, thro' which the river of that name runs, from the three lochs in

† Brechin. A town ſituated on a *brae*, or ſloping ground.

in the hills of Lundie, and empties itſelf in the frith of Tay, near Monyfieth.

The fields at the foot of the Grampians produce every kind of grain, as wheat, barley, peaſe, oats and beans, in ſuch plenty as to ſuffice not only for home conſumption, but for a ſupply to the inhabitants of other countries, who for the moſt part are very glad to import it. Little attention is paid to the culture of rye. With regard to the vallies between the Grampians, there is ſome barley and oats; and the neighbouring hills are covered with graſs and heath proper for paſture, where oxen, ſheep, goats, and thouſands of unbroken horſes are fed, until ſold in the fairs at the foot of the mountains. After ſeed-time, when the oxen are worn out with labour, they are driven in herds to the paſtures on the Grampians, where they remain till they are brought back in harveſt. The ſoil never fails to produce plenty of herbs, roots and garden fruits. Here are trees of various kinds, particularly oak and fir on the mountains; alſo birch, ſervice-tree, elm, hazel, poplar, and juniper. In the plantations are aſh, ſycamore, and willows. In the gardens are apples, pears, plumbs, filberts, cheſnuts, and in ſome places, ſaffron and tobacco: alſo figs and liquorice are brought to maturity. The Grampians abound with red and black berries.

On

On the banks of Yla and Melguns, and a few other places, may be gathered plenty of well flavoured wild ſtrawberries. Here is abundance of timber for labouring utenſils, and for the houſes of the common people: but for the houſes in towns, and thoſe of gentlemen in the country, timber is brought from Norway; not becauſe Scotland does not afford wood ſufficient to ſupply the whole kingdom, but becauſe rugged and impaſſable rocks prevent its being tranſported from thoſe places where it grows. And when, as in time of war, the inhabitants of Angus cannot import timber from Norway, they ſupply themſelves with any quantity of planks and logs from the neighbouring woods, on the weſt of the Grampians; where they have water-mills, which, unleſs obſtructed by froſt, are conſtantly employed in ſawing the timber.

Hares are to be found in plenty throughout all Angus; and in many places rabbits. Their warrens, when well ſtocked, are let at a very high price. Not only the gardeners of the gentry, but alſo farmers keep bee-hives, from which they derive conſiderable profit. Deer of different kinds, and goats are in great abundance on the Grampians.

With regard to fuel; no coal has as yet been found in Angus; tho' it ſhould not be affirmed that

that there is none, ſince limeſtone is got in great plenty, in the vallies of North Eſk, Yla, and elſewhere. The three maritime towns of Angus import coals by ſea from Fife, and even from Lothian. The inhabitants of the reſt of the county are well ſupplied with fuel from their native ſoil. For, (1) There is a bituminous turf (peat) dug out of marſhy ground, from the depth of ten, eighteen and thirty feet. Theſe marſhes or bogs are commonly called moſſes. The middle part of Angus is remarkably well ſupplied with marſhes of this kind: I have even ſeen them on the top of the higheſt mountains. (2) In the low ſituated bogs, while digging for turf, there are frequently found trees, ſixty feet long and upwards. Fir is moſt commonly found, and at great depths: black oak is more rare, tho' always perfectly free from decay. It is ſuppoſed, and with great probability, that there have formerly been woods in thoſe places. The fir trunks being dried, are not only uſed as fuel; but the poorer ſort of people, by cutting them into long ſplinters, make them ſerve inſtead of candles, in their cottages, during the winter evenings. Of the ſame materials too they very ingeniouſly twiſt a kind of rope, ſufficiently long and firm for every rural and domeſtic purpoſe, and more durable than ropes made of tow. (3) For fuel, they alſo cut off a bituminous turf or ſod from the ſurface of the earth,

earth, in mountains and places unfit for cultivation. (4) In the moors and hills, there is a ſpecies of heath, which grows ſo high as to reach a man's middle: this is very uſeful for ovens and ſtills, or where a quick fire is required. (5) The common people likewiſe ſow broom, for different valuable purpoſes, more eſpecially for fuel. In general it grows ſpontaneouſly, and becomes a kind of thicket.

In Angus there are many quarries, from which moſt excellent and durable ſtones are dug. No part of Scotland can boaſt of better; few of ſo good. They are perfectly well calculated for the purpoſes of ornamental architecture. The ſlates and mill-ſtones, with which Angus is plentifully ſtored, are daily tranſported by ſea to Fife and Lothian, where they are gladly received for grinding-ſtones to their mills, and covering to their houſes. Hewn ſtones are likewiſe carried hence, for different purpoſes, to Holland; and even to the diſtant regions of North America, for upper and nether millſtones.

As to the metals contained in the bowels of this county, it is affirmed that different kinds of them are to be found in the valley of North Eſk. The great-grandfather of the preſent proprietor of Edzdel diſcovered a mine of iron at the wood of Dalbog, and built a ſmelting-houſe, for preparing the metal.

metal. This gentleman's grandſon found ſome lead ore, near Innermark, which he refined. The ſon of this latter found a very rich mine of lead, on the banks of the Mark, about a mile up the valley from the caſtle of Innermark. In a mountain of hard rock, where eighteen miners are digging deeper every day, they have come to a large vein of ore, which, when the lead is extracted and properly refined, yields a ſixty-fourth part of ſilver. This vein ſeems to be inexhauſtible.

Angus is well ſtored with tame fowl, and the larger kinds of birds, as hens of Brazil, peacocks, geeſe and ducks. Pigeon-houſes are frequent. The mountains and heaths abound with partridge, grouſe * and plover. Larks are taken in great a-

 bundance

* The word in the original here rendered grouſe or moor fowl is, *capricalcis*. (Ablative plural.) The tranſlator could not find this word in any dictionary to which he had acceſs. He was induced to adopt the above tranſlation, from thinking that ſo remarkable a bird as the moor fowl would not likely be neglected in an enumeration of this kind. However a gentleman, to whom this account, both Latin and Engliſh, was ſhown, ſuggeſted, that a bird, called in the Highlands *capercalzie*, was perhaps here meant. If this conjecture be well founded, (and indeed the ſimilarity of the words makes it highly probable,) it would ſeem that the capercalzie, tho' it has now entirely deſerted Scotland, was in great plenty laſt century. The laſt one that was ſeen, was about thirty years ago, in Strathſpey. It is ſtill an inhabitant of Sweden and Norway; as alſo of ſome parts of Wales.

bundance with nets. The woods reſound with the warbling of the blackbird and thruſh: and among the rugged rocks of the Grampians, fierce eagles build their neſts. They ſeize with their talons hares, kids and lambs; and mounting aloft, they bear their prey over the higheſt tops of the hills to their unfledged brood. But the peaſants, where it is acceſſible, deprive the young of their meſs, while the mothers are haſtening to a new booty.

Angus is plentifully watered with rivers and lakes. Yla, towards the weſt, is ſwallowed up by Tay: and the two Eſks, towards the eaſt, empty themſelves into the ſea. The ſmaller rivers are, (1) Dichty, or according to Buchanan, Dea: (2) Dean, which nearer its ſource is called Kerbet: and (3) Lunan. There are many rivulets, beſides thoſe by which larger rivers are augmented, eſpecially between Arbroath and Dundee. All theſe have arched ſtone bridges over them; ſome with one, others with two and three arches. Wooden bridges are ſeldom to be met with. Some of the lakes lie ſo high among the mountain-tops, that they are not to be ſeen, but by thoſe who climb up into the mountains. Two of this ſort, from which Dichty takes its riſe, and which furniſh the greater part of its ſtream, are ſituated in the Hill of Lundie. But

a more remarkable lake * ſprings up between the higheſt tops of Clova: it is of no great circuit, but of aſtoniſhing depth. It ſends forth a ſtream, which cannot ſo properly be ſaid to flow, as to precipitate itſelf from the higheſt cliff of the mountain, for about one hundred fathoms; for a conſiderable way farther, it foams and ruſhes thro' a rocky channel, 'till at length, having reached the valley below, it glides ſmoothly along. The trouts, eager to eſcape from the confinement of the lake, are, in the fall, daſhed to death on the ſtones. The lakes in the vallies are numerous: the principal are thoſe of Dodd † and Forfar, where there is a chain of them, adorned with fiſhing boats and wears. But the lake of Melguns, in depth, purity of water, and variety of fiſh, excells all the reſt.

Angus is enriched with water-fowl, river and ſea fiſh. In the lakes there is abundance of perch, pike and eel; of the latter ſome are upwards of three feet long. Ducks and ſwans are common. In Yla, the two Eſks, and frith of Tay, within the promontory of Barry, there are many thouſands of ſalmon caught every ſeaſon, ſufficient not only to ſupply the inhabitants, but merchants, for exportation to

* This is called Loch-Brandie.

† The loch of Dodd is uſually called Reſcobie-loch.

foreign countries. The ſalmon return yearly from the ſea, to the ſource of rivers, the place of their nativity, to depoſite their ſpawn, from which many myriods of ſalmon-trout are returned to the ſea. During this ſeaſon, the common people kindle fires on the banks of the rivers, (privately in the night, becauſe prohibited by law,) and while the fiſh flock to the light, they are pierced with ſpears and carried away. In ſome lakes, the people in the neighbourhood, by the aſſiſtance of boats, catch young gulls among the weeds and ruſhes; and in ſummer, collect eggs in great abundance.

On the eaſt coaſt of Angus, at no great diſtance from the ſhore, there is caught great plenty of turbot, whiting, ſole, mackrel, haddock * and plaice: and ſo great quantities are there of lobſters, that veſſels are yearly ſent up with them alive to England. In the river Tay, near Dundee, and a little above it, a kind of whiting, commonly called *charies of Tay*, and a ſpecies of turbot are caught in great quantities. In the weſt bay of Broughty-caſtle, plenty of periwinkles, (wilks) muſſels, cockles,

* The haddocks, for ſeveral years paſt, ſeemed wholly to have deſerted theſe coaſts; juſt now however, (July 1793,) there is ſome appearance of their having returned, as more have been got within theſe few months paſt, than for many years before. It is to be hoped they will now continue to be got in their former abundance.

cockles, eſpecially the wreathen-cockle, is got. A ſingle whale, perhaps once in twenty years, betakes itſelf to the ſhore of Angus, when about to die.

The royal burghs of Angus are five in number, viz. FORFAR, almoſt in the centre of the county; BRECHIN, on the north bank of South Eſk; at the mouth of which is ſituated MONTROSE, where there is a convenient harbour; that of ARBROATH, (another of the royal burghs,) is not ſo much liked by mariners. But at DUNDEE, (the laſt of the five,) the harbour, by great labour and expence, has been rendered a very ſafe and agreeable ſtation for veſſels; and from this circumſtance, the town has become the chief emporium not only of Angus, but of Perthſhire. The citizens here, (whoſe houſes reſemble palaces,) are ſo eminent in regard to their ſkill and induſtry in buſineſs, that they have got more rivals than equals in the kingdom. The town is divided into four principal ſtreets, which we may ſuppoſe to repreſent a human body, ſtretched on its back, with its arms towards the weſt, and its thighs and legs towards the eaſt. The ſteeple repreſents the head, with an enormous neck, riſing upwards of eighteen ſtories into the clouds, and ſurrounded with two battlements or galleries, one in the middle, and another at the top, like a crown adorning the head; whoſe loud-ſounding tongue daily calls the people

people to worſhip. The right hand is ſtretched forth to the poor; for there is a large and well furniſhed hoſpital on that ſide: but the left hand, becauſe nearer to the heart, is more elevated towards heaven than the right, indicating a devout mind panting after celeſtial joys. In the inmoſt receſſes of the breaſt, ſtand the ſacred temples of God. So remarkable were the people of this place, for their adherence to true religion, that, at the reformation, it was honoured with the appellation of a ſecond Geneva. On the left breaſt is a Chriſtian burying-place, richly and piouſly ornamented, that the pious dead may be long held in veneration and eſteem. In the belly is the market-place; at the middle of which is the croſs, like the navel in the body. Below the loins ſtand the ſhambles, which, as they are in a proper place, ſo are they very neat and convenient, having a hidden ſtream of freſh water, which, (after wandering thro' the pleaſant meadows on the left,) runs under them; and which having thus, as it were, ſcoured the reins and inteſtines of the town, is afterwards diſcharged into the river. Here the thighs and legs are ſeparated. The ſea approaching the right, invites to the trade and commerce of foreign countries; and the left limb, ſeparated from the right a full ſtep, points to home trade, in the northern parts of the county. The genius of the citizens of Dundee is adapted both to

war

war and poetry. Two recent inſtances evince the heroic ſpirit of this people. In the late tumults of civil war, when the other towns of the kingdom were demoliſhed, this alone, tho' beſieged and much waſted, nobly ſtood out. At another time, when a body of Engliſh fanatics, after ravaging their own country, had overſpread Scotland; they did not get poſſeſſion of Dundee, till after the other towns had ſubmitted, and that not without a great deal of bloodſhed on the part of the Engliſh. The taking of this town put an end to the war. This heroiſm, the inhabitants of Dundee inherited from their anceſtors, for many ages back. Robert Patilloc, K. B. of Ballindean, and citizen of Dundee, went over with a ſupply of troops from Scotland to king Charles VII. of France: and his eminent military ſervices were of ſignal importance to Charles, in recovering his kingdom, and the territories which he had loſt. By his activity and vigilance, he in a few years reduced Gaſcoign to the ſubjection of Charles, after it had been long in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh. From this achievement, he was called by the inhabitants, *Little King of Gaſcoign*, as long as he lived. Theſe things are related by Boetius, B. xvi. of his annals. When Scotland was ſhaking off the yoke of Popery and idolatry, the people of Dundee were foremoſt in zeal and activity, as alſo firſt in point of time, to undertake the pulling

pulling down of this ſuperſtition. The part which the king acted in this reformation, is to be attributed to David Ferguſſon, a zealous antipapiſt, and chaplain to his majeſty. Again, James Haliburton, governor of the town of Dundee, with his adherents, did alſo greatly aſſiſt in the ſettlement of thoſe diſturbances, which diſtracted and depreſſed his country; as is related by Spottiſwood, Buchanan and Knox. But notwithſtanding this enterpriſing ſpirit, the people of Dundee were always loyal to the kings of Scotland, and ever ready to do them homage.

That Dundee is a favourite of the muſes is ſufficiently atteſted by the three following witneſſes. Boetius, the moſt famous hiſtorian of his country. Dr Kinloch, a celebrated phyſician to James VI. king of Great Britain, as alſo to the king of France. He was an excellent poet; and his works have the firſt place, in the ſecond volume of the Scots Latin poets. A poſthumous poem of this great genius has lately come to light, which is highly eſteemed, and juſtly entitled to the admiration of all lovers of poetry. And, Dr Goldman, who in the above mentioned choir of poets, very ſkilfully performs the part of Melpomene.

The more diſtinguiſhed and reſpectable families

in

in Dundee, are the Wedderburns, Fletchers, Haliburtons, Kinlochs, Scrimgeours and Davidſons. From the very ancient ſtock of Wedderburns, ſprung Mr Alexander Wedderburn, who became ſo diſtinguiſhed by his political talents, that James VI. of whom he was a great favourite, frequently ſolicited his advice in matters of the moſt ſecret nature, and greateſt importance; and always diſmiſſed him with ſignal marks of royal favour. His grandſon, by the eldeſt ſon, Alexander Wedderburn of Eaſter Powrie, is at this day the chief of the Wedderburn family. Two grandſons, by the ſecond ſon, are knights, viz. Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Blackneſs; and Sir Peter Wedderburn of Goſford, who was an able and worthy judge, for many years, in the ſupreme court of Scotland. Mr John Wedderburn, third ſon of the before-mentioned Mr Alexander Wedderburn, was, when a young man, ſeveral years profeſſor in St Leonard's college, St Andrew's. He afterwards viſited foreign nations, particularly their ſeminaries of learning; and applying to the ſtudy of phyſic, he became ſo eminent, that he was made king's phyſician at London, and was complimented with the honour of knighthood: at length returning home, he was regarded as the Eſculapius of his country. He died at Gosford, a bachelor, in the eighty-firſt year of his age, full of years, wealth and honour. He adorned and aug-

mented the library of St Leonard's in St Andrew's, with many thouſand volumes of valuable books.

There are three barons of the Fletcher family. The baron of Salton; the baron of Cranſton; and the baron of Balinſhoe*. Of the Kinloch family there are two, viz. of Bandoch, and of Gourdie. Sir William Davidſon of Dundee ſprung from the family of Davidſons.

Dundee obtained the privilege of a royal burgh from king William, at the ſame time with Perth, in the year 1210. David, William's beloved brother, on his return from the holy war, was ſhipwrecked on the rocks at the ſhore of this town; but being ſaved, the brothers, grateful for his deliverance after ſo many perils and hazards, and to perpetuate the memory thereof, gave the town the auſpicious name of Dei Donum. But for many ages before this period, it flouriſhed under the name of Alectum†; and even at this day it retains the name of Ail-lec among the Highlanders. For in the year

* Balinſhoe. The town of reſt.

† Alectum. The termination -tum was added to Alec by ſome of our old Scotch hiſtorians, who affected to latinize all names of places and men. The old name of Dundee was Alec, or rather Ail-lec, the name ſtill retained among the Highlanders.

year 80, Carnachus king of the Picts, being worſted by the Roman general Agricola, between the Forth and Tay, paſſed the latter in a boat, and came to Alectum, (now Dundee,) where he rallied his forces, and renewed his operations againſt the Romans. There was then a royal caſtle at Alectum, which ſtood until the troubleſome times of Robert Bruce, in the year 1306: and at this day, the ancient ſite of the caſtle, tho' now occupied by the houſes of the citizens, retains the name of the Caſtle-hill. See more about this town, and the antiquity of its caſtle, in Boetius' annals, B. iv. c. 12 and 14. In the year 1027, Malcolm II. king of Scotland lodged at Alectum, the night before he was to make his great attack upon Camus the Dane, with all the force of Scotland; probably taking the conveniency of the town and caſtle, to refreſh himſelf and men, before that bloody engagement*.

* This engagement took place between Panbride and Barry, ſome where on the banks of Lochty, a ſmall rivulet, which forms the boundary between theſe pariſhes. Some of the old hiſtorians relate, that ſo great was the ſlaughter on that occaſion, that Lochty ſeemed to be a ſtream of blood, running into the German ocean. Camus, the Daniſh general, after loſing the battle, attempted to make his eſcape towards the north, in hopes of reaching ſome of his ſhips, which were lying in the Murray-frith: but he was overtaken and killed, before he had gone much more than two miles. A ſtone, in the form of a croſs, with ſome emblematical figures rudely ſculptured

See Boetius, B. ii. c. 17. There are ſeveral petty towns in Angus, the chief of which are, the ſuburbs of Dundee, Kirriemuir and Glammis.

The only epiſcopal ſee in the county, is Brechin; which was erected into a biſhopric, and endowed with large revenues by king David, in the year 1128. Dr George Haliburton very deſervedly fills that chair at preſent. He is a grandſon of Dr Gladſton, formerly archbiſhop of St Andrew's, who was a native of Dundee. There were two abbeys, and a college of canons in Angus. The one at Cupar, dedicated to the bleſſed Virgin, by Malcolm IV. king of Scotland, in the year 1174. It contained Ciſtertian monks. The other at Arbroath, built in a very magnificent ſtile, by William king of Scotland, in the year 1178; and dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury: it contained monks

tured on it, was ſet up at the place where he was killed. This croſs ſtill remains; and the village, hard by, retains the name of Camuſton. Buchanan, and ſome others relate, that in the neighbourhood of Panbride, the winds, by blowing away the ſand, frequently uncover human bones, of a more than ordinary ſize, which they ſuppoſe to have been thoſe of the Danes, who fell in the above-mentioned engagement. However, in theſe times, no ſuch bones have been diſcovered. At a place not far off, called The Point, there are ſeveral large cairns, which are ſuppoſed to have been raiſed over ſome of thoſe who were ſlain in this battle. Perhaps, were a ſearch made, ſome ſuch bones as Buchanan mentions, might be found here.

monks of the order of St Benedict. Gilchrist Earl of Angus, after the king's example, made large donations to this abbey: and here both the king and Earl are buried. The college of canons, is situated about two miles east from Forfar, and is called Restennot. At first bishop Boniface, a legate from Rome, built a church here, which was afterwards converted into a college of regular canons. See Boetius, B. ix. c. 18. In the library at this place, among other rare books which it contained, were those, which Fergus II. king of Scotland brought with him from Rome with great care, in the year 403. For this reason, some will have it called Restenet, as if from *res tenet*, because the things, or records, of the ancients were kept there. But the more valuable this library was, with so much the more malicious envy, did Edward king of England commit it to the flames, in the year 1300; as Spottiswood writes in his ecclesiastical history, B. ii. c. 50.

As to the nobility of Angus; there are seven Earls. First, the Earl of Angus, to whom many proprietors of land and estates, receiving their rights at the court of regality at Kirriemuir, pay tribute and homage, as being the eldest son of the Marquis of Douglas; an account of whose honours properly belongs to the description of Douglas-dale;

and

and indeed the Scots chronicles are ſwelled with the heroic actions of the Douglaſes. The Earl of Kinghorn, now enjoys the title of Earl of Strathmore; who, as he is of royal deſcent, ſo he adorns that high pedigree, by a noble genius and generous diſpoſitions. The Earl of Airly boaſts of deriving his deſcent from Gilchriſt, an ancient Earl of Angus. Of theſe three, and the Earls of Northeſk and Southeſk, Gordon relates a few things, but does not ſo much as mention the Earls of Panmure and Dundee. This defect ſhall be ſupplied.

The family of Panmure is among the moſt ancient in Angus: for Galfrid de Maule held all the lands of Panmure, by a charter from Edgar king of Scotland, ſigned and ſealed in the year 1072. The ſecond charter is from king David; Macduff Earl of Fife, Gilchriſt Earl of Angus, and Gillebrid Earl of Strathearn being witneſſes. The third charter was ſigned by king William, at the caſtle of Panmure: and many ſucceeding charters are ſtill extant, which confirm thoſe three: hence this family, for many ages back, was juſtly honoured as among the chief in Angus. About 160 years ago, a Sir Robert Maule nobly fell in the ſervice of his country, at the battle of Harlaw, among other famous knights of Scotland; as Boetius relates. At length, Sir Patrick Maule of Panmure, being one

of

of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to James VI. king of Great Britain, and for many years after the death of that monarch, continuing faithful to his ſon Charles, was by him created Earl of Panmure, Lord Maule, at Newcaſtle, Auguſt 3, 1646. His eldeſt ſon, George Maule, ſucceeded him as Earl, who married the Counteſs Jane Campbell, eldeſt daughter of the Earl of Loudon, chancellor of Scotland, by whom he had a happy iſſue, viz. George; Mary, now Counteſs of Mar; James, baron of Balumbie*; and Henry. This Earl hath lately built a magnificent houſe, proportioned to his ample fortune, adjoining to the ancient caſtle of Panmure, (of which ſome of the ground-vaults ſtill remain) and of the ſame name, as if it had been only a reparation; becauſe it was in this old caſtle of Panmure, that king William ſigned the Panmure charter to Peter de Maule, in the year 1172. Earl George being now dead, his eldeſt ſon George, hath ſucceeded, who already gives proofs of a noble diſpoſition, when as yet his youth, which he has ſpent in the cultivation of virtue, is ſcarce finiſhed. For the good of his country, and the convenience of ſailors, he has begun to build a harbour † in his eſtate,

* Balumbie. The bare yellow town.

† This projected harbour was to have been built at Eaſt-haven

eſtate, to the eaſt of the mouth of Tay; where veſſels are invited to take ſhelter, when by contrary winds they are prevented from getting up the river. This Earl hath married that ornament of her ſex, the Counteſs Jane Fleming, daughter of the Earl of Wigton.

It is probable this family of the Maules came from England: for Sir Rodolphus de Maule, baron of Ruby in Northumberland, was the inſeparable companion of Malcolm III. (ſurnamed Canmore,) king of Scotland, during the misfortunes of his youth, while he was prince of Cumberland. With this prince, he came from England with 10,000 Engliſh, as a ſubſidy granted by Edward king of England, for the purpoſe of reducing the uſurper Macbeth to ſubjection; as Turgotus biſhop of St Andrew's relates in his hiſtory. Fordun alſo, in his hiſtory

in the pariſh of Panbride; but nothing more ſeems to have been done in it, than collecting a few ſtones for the purpoſe. It is much to be regreted that this ſcheme was not carried into execution; for a ſmall quay, either at Eaſt or Weſt-haven, would not only have been of great ſervice in the view abovementioned; but as the whole of the neighbourhood is now ſupplied with coals and lime at one or other of theſe places, the conveniency of a ſafe harbour would have been of general advantage. At preſent, veſſels cannot at all venture to land there in the winter months; and frequently they ſuffer conſiderable damage at other ſeaſons, by ſtorms happening to blow from the ſouth or eaſt.

hiſtory of Scotland, mentions the bravery of this Rodolphus de Maule, at the ſiege of Alnwick. Much about the ſame time, Arnold de Maule was king's conſtable on this ſide of the river Forth. And Edgar, the ſon of the above mentioned Malcolm III. who, like his father, made an expedition from England, with a ſubſidiary army, to take poſſeſſion of the Scottiſh ſceptre, ſigned the firſt charter to Galfred de Maule proprietor of Panmure, in the ſecond year of his reign. What then is more evident than that ſome of the Maules, who accompanied one or other of theſe princes from England, were rewarded, for their ſervices in war, with the lands of Panmure?

The Scrimgeours are poſſeſſed of the ſeventh earldom in Angus. When the ſtandard-bearer of Malcolm III. was afraid and heſitated to paſs the very rapid river Spey, in order to attack the enemy, the king, ſeizing the ſtandard, gave it to Alexander Carron, a knight of acknowledged valour: whoſe ſon, brave as his father, did ſo terrify and diſmay the enemy by his extraordinary courage, that king Alexander, who was looking on, inſtead of Carron, gave him the name of Scrimgeour, that is, *Brave Warrior*, and aſſigned to him and his poſterity the office of king's ſtandard-bearer. This happened in the year 1107. They lived in the

caſtle of Dudhope, near Dundee, and have for many ages borne the royal ſtandard. They were conſtables of the king's caſtle in Dundee, now demoliſhed. At length they were created Earls of Dundee, by Charles II. Now this very ancient family, by default of an heir, has become extinct; and all the honours and privileges of the earldom and conſtableſhip, with all the property, have been granted by his Majeſty Charles II. to Charles Maitland, Lord of Hatton, (brother to his Grace the Duke of Lauderdale,) a nobleman whoſe character, in every reſpect, ſuits his high rank.

The following are the Barons of Angus, in the alphabetical order of their names. Auchinleck* of that ilk; Blair of Balgillo†; Bower of Kincaldrum‡; Carneggie of Balnamoon‖; Carneggie of Boiſack§; Crichton of Ruthven; Duncan of Lundie; Durham

* Auchinleck. The field of broad ſtones.

† Balgillo. The town of the young man.

‡ Kincaldrum. The end or head of the narrow ridge of hills.

‖ Balnamoon. The town of moſs.

§ Boiſack. A little place; literally, a handful.

ham of Grange *; Durham of Ardunie †; Erſkine of Dun; Erſkine of Kirkbuddo; Fothringham of Powrie, the chief of his race; Fullerton of Kinnaber; Graham of Claverhouſe; Graham of Strathdichtie; Gray of Innerichtie; Gray of Kinnell; Gardyne of that ilk; Guthrie of that ilk; Haliburton of Pitcur ‡; Innes of Diununn; Kyd of Craigie; Lindſay of Edzdel; Lyon of Weſter Ogil; Lyon of Brigton; Lyon of Coſſins; Maule of Balumbie; Maule of Kelly ‖; Murray of Melgum; Maxwell of Tealing; Nevoy of that ilk; Ogilvy of Clova; Ogilvy of Glenquharity; Ogilvy of New Grange; Scott of Craig; Wedderburn of Eaſter Powrie, the chief of all the Wedderburns; Wedderburn of Blackneſs; Winton of Strathmartine; Wood of Bonnington; Young of Auldbar.

There are ſixty pariſhes in Angus; and in each a miniſter and a church §. There are five preſby-

 teries,

* Grange. A place fertile in corn.

† Ardunie. Green heights or hills.

‡ Pitcur. A hollow at the foot of a ſteep hill.

‖ Kelly. Woody.

§ In the original, the following reference is made to the map which accompanied it. "The churches in the map are marked by the letter K, as are the caſtles by C."

teries, viz. Dundee, Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin and Meigle; for tho' the ſeat of this laſt preſbytery be ſituated in Perthſhire, yet the greater part, viz. eight of the miniſters and pariſhes are in Angus.

As to the genius of the people of Angus; from the following inſtances let a conjecture be formed. The Thane of Angus married a daughter of Malcolm king of Scotland, of which marriage Macbeth was the iſſue; who, as Buchanan tells us, was of a valiant and truly noble diſpoſition, if a kind of madneſs had not prompted him to ſeize unjuſtly upon the crown. In the year 1025, while he continued a ſubject, he diſcovered great valour, and was ſucceſsful in ſubduing the Abriani: he was afterwards equally fortunate in his operations againſt the Danes. There were likewiſe Carron, and his ſon Scrimgeour, who were deſervedly made king's ſtandard-bearers, for their military proweſs; which office their poſterity held unblemiſhed, for upwards of 500 years. Gilchriſt Earl of Angus, of which he was a native, in the year 1124, with two other nobles, led an army into England; and putting the Engliſh to flight at Allerton, he carried the Duke of Glouceſter, general of the Engliſh forces, and many other noblemen, priſoners into Scotland. Again, Gilchriſt Earl of Angus, in the year 1161, ſubdued the Thane of Argyle, who, with a great army

army, had been raiſing an inſurrection: he routed the rebels in Galloway, in three different engagements. And in the year 1200, he commanded the right wing of the Scotch army, and drove the Engliſh before him out of Scotland. Sometime afterwards, he ſettled ſome new diſturbances, which had ariſen in Galloway. There was another famous perſon among the Anguſians, viz. Corbred, ſurnamed Galdus, king of Scotland, chief commander of the united forces of the Scots and Picts; he obtained the firſt victory over the Romans in Angus, and by repeated conqueſts, entirely expelled them from all the territories of the Scots and Picts. This is recorded by Boetius, B. iv. ch. 18, 19, 20. The Anguſians, eſpecially thoſe who inhabit the Grampians, are, even at this day, fond of going about armed; in ſo much, that they ſeldom go out without the ornament, or rather burden, of a bow, quiver, ſhield, ſword or piſtol; and they always have with them a kind of hook, to knock down and catch wild beaſts or birds, as occaſion may offer. Theſe Highlanders however, notwithſtanding the ſuſpicious appearance which their arms give them, conſider it as the greateſt of crimes, to take corn or meal from mills, whether by force or ſtealth. Their mills, as I have often ſeen, ſtand open day and night; and neither have, nor ſtand in need of any gates or doors. Who then

then can ſay, that they are a people addicted to theft?

Some of the more remarkable works of God's creation and providence may be ſeen all around Angus.

1. Almoſt on the weſtern boundaries of the county, below the houſe of Piel, there is a perpendicular cataract in the river Yla, ſo high that the ſalmon cannot paſs it, viz. about twenty fathoms. Scotland hardly has another of equal height, on ſuch a river. The roaring of this cataract, when the ſtream is ſwelled by rains, and projected from the ſummit of the precipice, ſeems to thoſe in the neighbourhood, like the noiſe of dreadful and continued thunder. Even the earth trembles under the feet of thoſe who ſtand near it; and the dew of this frothing torrent, which is received into a deep gulf formed in the rock by the fall of the water, ſpreads itſelf over many acres of the neighbouring ground, whence it is commonly called Reekie Lin. The water iſſuing from this place, runs for three miles ſhut up in a long deep and horrible gulf, almoſt entirely rock in the bottom. In many places, it is forty feet wide, and walled about on each ſide with rugged rocks, to the height of thirty fathoms, and in ſeveral places more; ſo that it is abſolutely impaſſable

impaſſable for three miles, not only to people on horſeback, but alſo to thoſe on foot, unleſs at one very narrow paſſage. Many people are killed here, by climbing careleſsly about the brink of this precipice, which is every where covered with ſhrubs and buſhes. Previous to ſuch fatal accidents, thoſe who live in the neighbourhood, uſed to hear cries and lamentations in the night time, preſaging the death of ſome perſon about to fall into this gulf.

2. Some pleaſant and fruitful fields, extending about two miles on the ſouth border of Angus, at the mouth of the frith of Tay, about fifty years ago, were richly covered with graſs and corns, but afterwards quite covered with ſand, carried on them by a furious weſt-wind. However, by the goodneſs of God, the graſs on the north ſkirts of the field, is again getting above the ſand; and thoſe places, which, not long ago, had nothing but the naked looks of barrenneſs, are now ſmiling in the graſſy veſtments, which they have put on.

3. In the high and ſteep rocky ſhore, on the north ſide of Arbroath, there are many Caves; ſome of which, by their vaſt length and extent, ſeem to ſurpaſs the utmoſt efforts of human power and induſtry to explore. They are fifteen in number; ſome of the moſt remarkable we ſhall here deſcribe.

And

And firſt, The Filthy Cave, (for every one has its peculiar name,) is ſixty paces in length, having the ſea running up into it; for thirty paces it may be entered. It is forty feet wide, and twenty feet high. Seals frequent this cave, as they do all the others, into which the ſea enters, where, at the autumnal equinox, when they have their young with them, the country-people go in boats, with clubs and ſpears, and kill both the mothers and their young; frequently ſixteen at a time: the oil and ſkins of which are diſpoſed of to conſiderable advantage. They are killed at any time, with guns, when ſwimming about the ſhore.—The ſecond cave, is called the Terrible Well, (or Pot of Achmithie,) into which the ſea enters forty paces, (above this there are corn fields;) at the end, the earth is open, ſo that the ſea is ſeen from above, as are the heavens from below, as from the bottom of a frightful well. Aſtoniſhing numbers of ſea-fowl build in all theſe watery caves; and as to thoſe into which the ſea does not enter, one of them is inhabited by foxes and wild-cats; and thouſands of pigeons, which have deſerted the neighbouring pigeon-houſes, take up their reſidence in the reſt. Into ſome of the caves, the peaſants drive their ſheep, during ſevere ſeaſons, as to a place where they will beſt be defended from the ſeverity of the northern blaſts.—Laſt of all is, The Forbidden Cave,

Cave, whoſe vaulted roof is fifteen feet in height, and twenty in width. Its length is ſaid to be a mile. Some have gone in ſixty paces, where they find a ſtone obeliſk: and it has been affirmed for a truth, that ſeveral people of conſiderable note went in further, (rather too raſhly indeed,) with torches and candles, that they paſſed the ſtone obeliſk a good way, and came to an iron one; and preſuming to proceed ſtill further, they were met by horrible ſpectres, and heard diſmal yellings. (There are many things told, ſo wonderful, that they are not to be believed, and ſhall not be here related.) When the adventurers had got thus far, their lights went out, of themſelves, without any external cauſe, which ſo terrified and confounded them, that they came out with the utmoſt precipitation, very frightened-looking gentlemen, quite unlike the bold fellows who went in. That no amphibious animal may here be without its cave, the otters have one of their own; and in which they are caught by the country people, who make conſiderable profit by them. It is much to be queſtioned, whether in any part of Britain, there be ſo many great caves, ſo near to each other, ſo ſmooth in the bottom, and the roofs of which are ſo well poliſhed.

4. Hares of a white colour abound in the vallies of the two Eſks: and on the tops of the hills of

North Eſk, white grouſe are found in great abundance. Theſe mountain tops are covered with great heaps of large ſtones, raiſed by human hands into the form of pyramids, which at length, by the effects of the weather, are become white. For what end they were thus piled up, whether for any purpoſe of the heatheniſh ſuperſtitions of thoſe, who there worſhipped their imaginary deities; or whether they were collected in troubleſome times, to beat off enemies who ſhould attempt to aſcend theſe mountains, cannot now be known. There are ſea-calves in the frith of Tay perfectly white.

5. Shells containing pearls are found in the river Yla *.

6. Little flint ſtones, like the point of a crooked dart, (elaborately deſcribed by Gordon, in his account of Aberdeenſhire, as a rarity peculiar to that country,) are picked up in great numbers, by the ſhepherds in the ſummer time, among the heaths and thickets of Angus.

7. In the valley of Northeſk, four miles weſt from Innermark, there is a cave with a roof of ſtone, from the chinks of which there drops ſome water,

* Pearl-ſhells are not peculiar to the river Yla, but are likewiſe to be found in ſome of the other rivers of Angus.

water, which petrifies into a ſubſtance reſembling cryſtal, of the form of diamonds, with three, four and ſix ſides.

8. In Angus there are ſeveral mineral ſprings, which, by their taſte and effects, ſhow that there is vitriol below. They are much recommended by phyſicians. The neighbouring ſtones, over which the water runs, become of a reddiſh colour.

Laſtly. The citizens of Montroſe, by a dyke, almoſt two miles in length, which they are raiſing at that bay, in the river Southeſk, on the weſt ſide of the town, will gain, when that noble work is compleated, about a thouſand acres of land. And as the ſea will be forever ſhut out, Montroſe may boaſt of lands, of its own acquiſition, ſo fine as to reſemble the Elyſian Fields *.

* This great work, about the ſucceſs of which, it would ſeem, very ſanguine expectations were entertained, like many others of the ſame kind, came to nothing; the dyke was ſoon ſwept away; and the water reſumed its former bed. The inhabitants of Montroſe, having obtained a handſome donation from his Majeſty, and very liberal ſubſcriptions from different quarters, are at preſent engaged in a much more rational undertaking than the above, viz. the building of a bridge acroſs the river, a little above the harbour. In this great and truly uſeful work, every friend of his country muſt wiſh them all manner of ſucceſs.

FINIS.

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